

Lineage and Honors History
of the
392 Air Expeditionary Group (ACC)

Lineage. Established as 392 Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 15 Jan 1943. Activated on 26 Jan 1943. Redesignated 392 Bombardment Group, Heavy on 20 Aug 1943. Inactivated on 13 Sep 1945. Redesignated 392 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy on 14 Jul 1947. Activated in the Reserve on 30 Jul 1947. Redesignated 392 Bombardment Group, Light on 27 Jun 1949. Inactivated on 10 Nov 1949. Consolidated (31 Jan 1984) with the 392 Bombardment Wing, Light, which was established on 16 May 1949. Activated in the Reserve on 27 Jun 1949. Inactivated on 10 Nov 1949. Redesignated: 392 Fighter-Day Wing on 23 Mar 1953. Redesignated 392 Strategic Missile Wing, and activated, on 6 Oct 1961. Organized on 18 Oct 1961. Discontinued, and inactivated, on 20 Dec 1961. Redesignated 392 Air Expeditionary Group, and converted to provisional status, on 24 Mar 2003.

Assignments. II Bomber Command, 26 Jan 1943; 2 Bombardment Wing, c. 1 Aug 1943 (attached to 202 Provisional Combat Wing, 3-13 Sep 1943); 2 Bombardment Division, 13 Sep 1943; 14 Combat Bombardment Wing, 14 Sep 1943; 96 Combat Bombardment Wing, 1 Jun 1945; Air Transport Command, c. 25 Jun-13 Sep 1945. 307 Bombardment Wing (later, 307 Air Division), 30 Jul 1947; Twelfth Air Force, 27 Jun 1949-10 Nov 1949 (attached to 47 Bombardment Wing, 27 Jun-2 Oct 1949). Strategic Air Command, 6 Oct 1961; 1 Strategic Aerospace Division, 18 Oct-20 Dec 1961. Assigned to Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 24 Mar 2003.

Components. Squadrons. **576** Bombardment (later 576 Strategic Missile): 26 Jan 1943-13 Sep 1945; 24 Sep 1947-10 Nov 1949; 18 Oct-20 Dec 1961 (detached 18-19 Oct and 15-20 Dec 1961). **577** Bombardment: 26 Jan 1943-13 Sep 1945; 25 Aug 1947-27 Jun 1949. **578**

Bombardment: 26 Jan 1943-13 Sep 1945; 9 Sep 1947-10 Nov 1949. **579 Bombardment:** 26 Jan 1943-13 Sep 1945; 26 Sep 1947-27 Jun 1949.

Stations. Davis-Monthan Fld, AZ, 26 Jan 1943; Biggs Field, TX, 1 Mar 1943; Alamogordo AAB, NM, 18 Apr-18 Jul 1943; Wendling, England, c. 1 Aug 1943-c. 15 Jun 1945; Charleston AAFld, SC, 25 Jun-13 Sep 1945. Barksdale Field (later, AFB), LA, 30 Jul 1947-10 Nov 1949. Vandenberg AFB, CA, 18 Oct-20 Dec 1961.

Commanders. Col Irvine A. Rendle, 26 Jan 1943; Col Lorin L. Johnson, 21 Jun 1944; Lt Col Lawrence G. Gilbert, 27 May 1945-unkn. Col Louis M. Gregory, 30 Jul 1947; Lt Col Bobby G. Boyd, by Dec 1948; Col Loyd R. Davidson, 27 Jun-10 Nov 1949 (for group); Brig Gen Thomas B. Herndon, 27 Jun-10 Nov 1949 (for wing). None (not manned), 6-19 Oct 1961; Brig Gen Roger B. Crow, 20 Oct 1961; None (not manned), 15-20 Dec 1961.

Aircraft and Missiles. B-24, 1943-1945. B-26, 1949. Atlas, Minuteman, and Titan, 1961.

Operations. Trained with B-24s in Texas and New Mexico from late Jan to late Jul 1943. Moved to England in Jul and Aug 1943. Began combat with Eighth Air Force on 9 Sep 1943. Bombed primarily strategic targets in Europe such as oil refineries, marshalling yards, railroad bridges, steel plants, tank factories, and gas works until Apr 1945, but also flew some interdiction and close air support missions. During Big Week, 20-25 Feb 1944, the group took part in an intensive campaign against German aircraft factories, earning a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for a raid on Gotha. Bombed airfields and V-weapon sites in France in preparation for the Normandy invasion in Jun 1944, and struck coastal defenses and important intersections on D-Day. Struck enemy positions to assist ground forces to break out at St. Lo in Jul 1944. During the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945, bombed railroads, bridges, and highways to cut German supply lines. Dropped supplies to Allied troops during the airborne

assaults on the Netherlands in Sep 1944 and across the Rhine in Mar 1945. Flew its last combat mission on 25 Apr 1945, then dropped food to the Dutch. Returned to the United States in Jun 1945 and inactivated in Sep of that year. Activated in the Reserve at Barksdale Field, LA, on 30 Jul 1947. Trained with B-36 heavy bombers of the 47 Bombardment Wing from 27 Jun-2 Oct 1949, and inactivated on 10 Nov. Activated for about three months at Vandenberg AFB, CA, in 1961 for missile training.

Service Streamers. None.

Campaign Streamers. Air Offensive, Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe; Air Combat, EAME Theater.

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. None.

Decorations. Distinguished Unit Citation: Gotha, Germany, 24 Feb 1944.

Lineage, Assignments, Components, Stations, and Honors through 27 Apr 2004.

Commanders, Aircraft, and Operations through 20 Dec 1961.

Supersedes published information contained in Maurer Maurer (ed.), *Air Force Combat Units of World War II* (Washington: USGPO, 1983) and Charles A. Ravenstein, *Air Force Combat Wings: Lineage and Honors Histories, 1947-1977* (Washington: USGPO, 1984).

Emblem. None on file.

Prepared by Daniel L. Haulman.

Approved by Judy G. Endicott.